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THE PRISON SHIPS  
AND OTHER POEMS



# THE PRISON SHIPS AND OTHER POEMS

BY  
**THOMAS WALSH**



BOSTON  
SHERMAN, FRENCH & COMPANY  
1909

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**AD MATREM**

**CATHERINE FARRELL WALSH**

**IN DEDICATION**



## THE PRISON SHIPS

ODE READ AT THE DEDICATORY EXERCISES OF THE  
PRISON-SHIP MARTYRS' MONUMENT ON FORT  
GREENE, WASHINGTON PARK, BROOKLYN,  
NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 14, 1908.

NOT here the frenzied onslaught — here no  
roar  
Of victory — no raucous cry of hate  
From the red surge of war;  
Here crowd no Caesar's myrmidons of state  
Lest for some hasty-fading laurels he be late  
And night annul his place;  
But solemn is the tread of feet that come  
Around this hallowed mount — with drum  
Concordant — with the clarion  
Of youthful hearts that throb for deeds sub-  
lime —  
Here where no stain can e'er deface  
This columned beauty out of Parthenon,—  
This glory surging pure beyond the clouds of  
Time.

Here on our fortress hill  
Where Freedom's gathering vanguards took  
their stand,  
O sacred relics! — how serene ye lay,  
How patient for this day  
Whose rites we now fulfill!

Thousands of dusks and dawns have trembled on  
These portals of your tomb ;  
Ye heard the tread of discord shake the land,  
The trumpetings of doom ; —  
Yea, through your sleep ye knew the orphan's  
cry,  
The broken hearts' far clamoring,  
And the pale heroes plucking deathless wreaths  
From fields o'ershadowed by the buzzard's wing !  
Oh, in what direful school  
Learned ye the iron rigor of the mind  
Your memory bequeaths ?  
Was it in plague and famine ye did find  
Such right divine to rule —  
Such hope in God and man — that double stay  
Of commonwealths to-day ?  
For here, the sponsors for all ages,  
Ye gave as solemn gages  
Not blood alone  
But very flesh and bone !  
Nor pledged ye only for the strong and brave,  
But for the generations yet unborn  
By every strand remote that greets the morn,  
For the pale despot shackled to his throne  
As for the serf and slave.  
O stalworth dreamers in the dust,  
That God who took your young hearts' trust,  
Your pangs, the issue of your patriot cause,  
Still sways the stars and souls of men

With th' ancient seals and laws;  
Nor did He turn and mock your anguish when  
Ye cried His password through eternity  
And died in fetters so ye might be free.  
O martyrdom of hope! — to lie  
In youth and strength — and die  
'Mid rotting hulks that once by every sea  
And star swung carelessly —  
To die becalmed in war's black hell,  
Where in the noon's wide blaze your hearts could  
soar

With gull and eagle by each cherished shore  
Of home — where ye had sworn to dwell  
The fathers of the free.  
Doom like to this the Lydian victim bore  
Who clutched at feasts divine — only to starve  
the more.

Well might the blue skies and the breeze  
Which once perchance swept Delphi o'er,  
Well might the star-eyes question:—"What are  
these  
Heaped holocausts on Freedom's shrine?  
Not even the dullard ox unto our altars led  
Of old, but walked 'mid reverent throng  
Anoint and garlanded!  
What rite of hate or scorn of law divine  
Strikes down its victims here  
With not a funeral song  
Nor poor libation of a tear?"

To-day give answer — ye, who 'mid the battle's roar

Have known the rapture of a patriot's death,—  
Ye, who have seen the aureole trembling o'er  
Your brows as anguish clutched at Life's fond breath,—

Blesséd and radiant now! — look down  
In consecration of the solemn deed  
Which here commemorates this iron breed  
Of martyrs nameless in the clay  
As the true heroes of our newer day —  
World-heroes — patterned not on king and demi-god

Of charioted splendor or of crown  
Blood-crusted — but on toilers in the sod,  
On reapers of the sea, on lovers of mankind,  
Whose bruised shoulders bear  
The lumbering wain of progress — all who share  
The crust and sorrows of our mortal lot —  
Lamps of the soul The Christ hath left behind  
To light the path whereon He faltered not.

Yea, now the boom of guns,  
The scarlet bugles, faint from off the world!  
Lo, o'er the loftier brows of man, unfurled  
The purer banners of the dawning suns!  
Banners of God in godlike minds — of hope —  
Of faith, to daunt the crafty hordes of greed,  
The venomed remnant of the dragon's seed

Along the gutters of the world! No more men  
groped  
Up Life's black chasms — but free they swing  
along  
Their spacious levels in the noon's full flow'r  
And strike to earth the barricades of wrong.  
They have torn down the tyrants of an hour,—  
Think not that they shall hear the deeps of  
shame  
Foredoom them likewise with the despot's name;  
Nor doubt this glorious vessel of our state,  
This visioned bark, whereof in martyr dreams  
From death's grim hulks they caught the hal-  
yard gleams,—  
No feud can seize it, nor the grip of hate  
Turn back its prow into the slime  
For scorn to overwhelm  
With name so curséd on the lips of Time  
As "prison-ship" for men who would be free!

High God, Thy hand was on another helm  
When every tide and breeze  
Brought the hope-lighted argosies  
From out the ports of hunger and of wrong!  
And Thou alone hast number kept  
Of that indomitable throng  
Who gained this harbor portal,  
From out their house of bondage crept  
And sought the north, the south, the west,—

Armies of thrift and faith with hearts that  
blessed

These graves immortal!

To-day from far their Freedom-lighted brows

Turn hither musing on their happy prows

That met the tides of sacred waters here

And touched a lustral shore whose shrines unto  
the skies uprear.

And ye, O sailors faring buoyant forth,

Bear ye the tidings of this joy-swept main

Where round the coasts of Celt or Dane

Ye brave the sleet-mouthed north

Or track the moon on some Sicilian wave

Or lonely cape of Spain;

Take ye the story of these comrades true

Whose prison hulks sank here

Where now such tides of men are poured

As never surged o'er crag or fiord

To stay the gulls with fear —

Who yet such quest of glory knew

As never Argonaut of old

Seeking the shores of gold —

As never knight from wound and vigil pale

Tracing o'er sunset worlds his Holy Graal!

And lo! — to all the seas a pharos set

In sign memorial! Through the glooms of  
Time

'Twill teach a sacrifice of self, sublime

O'er lash of storms as through corroding calms.  
Nor e'er alone shall shine  
Its love-bright parapet ;  
But every star shall bring a golden alms ; —  
The seething harbor line  
Glow 'neath its star-fed hives, its swing and flare  
Of Bridges ; — while with pilgrim lamps from  
sea  
Shall grope the dreadnought fleets ; — while end-  
less prayer  
Of dawns and sunsets floods the faces far  
Uplifted, tear-stained, to this Martyr shrine,—  
Whose sister torch shall greet what Liberty  
Holds back to God,— earth's brightest answer-  
ing star.

## AD ASTRA

**L**OVE, you are late,—

Yea, while the rose leaves fall

In showers against the moonlit garden-wall,  
My firm hand bars the gate.

The nightingale

Has worn himself with pleading;

The fountains' silvered tears are interceding,  
But what is their avail?

Love, you are too late,

Long stood the postern wide

With all my morning-glories twined; inside  
Bird called to bird for mate.

Noon and the sun,—

The loves of bees and flow'rs;

With folded hands unclaimed I marked the  
hours

That saw my youth undone.

Then evening star

And coming of the moon!

Ah, not too soon, my soul, ah, not too soon  
Broke their soft grace afar!

All consecrate,

I chose my white path there,

And took the withered roses from my hair.

Love, you are too late,— too late!

## THE BLIND

**A**T midnight, through my dream, the signals  
dread  
From star to star, brought word the sun was  
dead.  
It seemed as though<sup>1</sup> entire creation heard  
Yet gave no answer,— neither call of bird  
Nor low of cattle; but the townsfolk crept  
In silence to their roof-tops. No man slept,  
But merchant, bondman, prince and scribe and  
priest,  
Their faces haggard, searched the fateful East.  
Down from the hillsides to the city gates  
No market wains came rumbling with their  
freights;  
No sentry's voice along the citadel  
Announced the hour; no matin peal or knell  
From dome or *campanile*; not a sail  
Stirred in the harbor offing! Then a wail  
Despairing swept across the roofs, a sigh  
O'er land and sea, as slowly on the sky  
The sun's black bulk between the stars uprose —  
One sigh of astral grief, and at its close  
Came silence once again more terrible!  
'Twas then, methought, a new-born infant cried;  
And where the gates stood open gaunt and wide  
A blind man crouched and stretched his empty  
palms  
Into the darkness and moaned, "Alms! Alms!"

## EXPIATION

EARTH o'er her plains and mountains has  
unrolled  
A royal carpet all of red and gold  
Whereon November on his exiled way  
Like some doomed sultan may bow down and  
pray.

## ENDLESS SPRING

THERE comes a whisper through my heart  
As night o'er takes me on my way  
Where I would hold my cares apart  
And mourn the long autumnal day;  
The paths I love await the snows,  
The boughs are bare of song and wing,  
Yet through my heart the whisper goes  
That somewhere — somewhere there is spring.

I care not whether near or far,—  
I know through other lands it goes  
With drift of blossom, glint of star,  
And old-time message of the rose.  
I cannot ask that it should stay  
Lest hearts afar lack comforting;  
Enough for me to know alway  
That somewhere — somewhere there is spring.

Belovéd — O where'er you be  
For whom my thoughts are caroling —  
O answer, heart to heart, with me  
That somewhere — somewhere there is spring.

## JOHN MILTON

1608 — DECEMBER — 1908

WHAT other tread is on Olympus now—  
O vacant winds — O hollow valleys where  
Of yore the Graces roved! What sightless  
stare

Now awes the peaks that hailed blind Homer's  
brow! —

“Great Pan is dead”— so every crag and  
bough

Bemoaned; — “Zeus, vanished from his high  
repair —

Apollo's darts unstrung! ”— What foot hath  
there

Dispersed that avalanche of gods — but thou

Who strode concurrent with the angel throng  
Of Sinai and of Tabor — as the choirs  
Of Bethlehem hill caught up the scattered  
lyres

And heaven's Far-Darting bow was made a  
Cross.

O Milton, still doth thine epochal song  
Sound from life's peaks upon the vales of  
dross.

## SEAGULLS IN NEW YORK HARBOR

WINGS of the north that speak of Viking  
days,

What winter madness yearly brings you here  
To toss and scream upon the harbor ways  
Between the prows that whiten far and near!

Yon seething heights and cañons but deride  
The crags that nursed you in the isléd sea ;  
Yon roar of human traffic speaks of tide  
More terrible than theirs and bids you flee.

For soon no eye shall mark you, and the day  
Be swiftly heaped into the furnace west,  
That tranquil hour your northern sisters stay  
Their briny flights and wait you at the nest.

Then through the vasty reaches of the night  
Shall vice and virtue range in ancient game  
Upon one living checkerboard of light ;  
Where bridges raise their diadems of flame.

Yea, never — waking in their midnight caves —  
Your kindred find such splendor on the seas  
When the white hermit, North, his pennons  
waves ;  
Yea, never dream of witcheries like these.

Think you that at the dawn the fiery eyes  
Which guard yon outposts shall be closed in  
sleep?

That mid yon realm of gathering shadows lies  
Some eyrie like your old ones on the deep?

Nay,— though the midnight hush the sullen  
streams

That gloat like misers o'er the rests of light,  
Think not to find your haven here for dreams,—  
But to the sea, O winter wings, take flight.

## DIVINATION

WHAT glory waits upon the rose  
Where light of more than earth delays?  
Some lineage of heaven betrays  
Itself, I know, in tint and pose.  
A starlight through the day it throws,  
Yea, all my nights are faint to praise  
What glory waits upon the rose.  
The spells I seek no wizard knows,  
No Mage for all his parchment says,—  
But, Sweetheart, something in thy gaze  
And something on thy lips disclose  
What glory waits upon the rose.

## THE EPITAPH OF A BUTTERFLY

**A**S one by one she saw the leaves of red  
And yellow wafted slowly to the ground,  
Hope buoyed her heavy wings of flame and said  
That 'mong them still some comrade might be  
found.

But when o'er all the autumn hills a pall  
Of gold was drawn before her glazing eye,  
Yon mirrored pool made ready for her fall  
A grave as lovely as her native sky.

## AT NAZARETH

**B**EYOND the blackened embers of the earth  
The west withdraws the sinking flames of  
day;

So ends the seventh annual of My birth —

And see — a star, to taunt our brazier  
gray! —

Dost thou remember how at hours like these —

Nay, mother, I was not too young to know —

Thou wouldst go meekly down upon thy knees

And opening wide our rustic coffer, show

The Magi's offerings fondly treasured there: —

The golden casket with its store of stones

And coins and amulets and ciphers rare;

The incense lamps, the myrrh's bejeweled  
cones

With wondrous hieroglyphs engraven o'er.

These wouldst thou lift into My baby hands

Until My breast and arms could hold no more;

Then wouldst thou pour the precious incense  
sands

Upon our little fire and all the room

Grew white with clouds of perfume undefiled;

Then wouldst prostrate thyself amid the gloom,

Sweet mother, all alone before thy Child.

To-night hast thou no incense for thy Son? —

The night wind finds our brazier black as  
death? —

Nay, — do not kneel — here, here My breast  
upon,

The stars shall show the vapor of thy breath.

## SNOW FUGUE

THE moon, the mouldering moon, is out  
    Amid the ashes of the years,  
Ere with his straggling hosts in rout  
    Day from his Moscow disappears.

And hark ! the blasts' white finger beat  
    The mountain drums in long accord  
Out where the cypresses entreat —  
    Green tongues that ceaseless praise the Lord.

O Night that falls upon the earth,—  
    Be gracious unto them who weep !  
Soothe thou the pangs of death and birth,  
    And flood embittered hearts with sleep !

## INVOCATION OF THE BUTTERFLIES

PUEBLO INDIAN SONG

BUTTERFLIES! —

Butterflies of daybreak glancing  
O'er the yellow fields and blue,—  
White wing,— red wing,— gold wing,— glanc-  
ing

In the sun motes, whence got yo  
That apparel so entrancing? —

O what gardens came you through,  
Butterflies?

Golden, pollen-tousled lovers  
Of the corn-hearts and the sun! —

Lilac-petalled tribe, that hovers  
Near the skies from whence it won  
Shimmer of the light that covers  
Fields afar when day is done! —

Butterflies,  
Hither — crimson-cheeked — O wander  
From the happy lands afar,  
Down the rainbow pathway yonder  
Where the clouds of water are!  
Haste — the showers of pollen squander,—  
Scatter rains from stalk and star,—  
Butterflies!

## ON LAKE TRASIMENO

COLD gleam the furrow pools with shreds of day

On Trasimeno's marge; and far away

The moon o'er Sanguinetto's huts is seen —

The year's first crescent like a crown serene

Upon the brow of some averted face

Whose lineaments no mortal eye may trace.

There unto God the orchard trees lift high

Their leafless boughs like palsied hands and sigh,—

“ We are too old, O winds of winter, spare! ”

“ Too old! Too old! ” the gray hills' answering pray'r;

“ Have we not borne the ploughs of bronze and steel —

Seen proud Etruria fall,— writhed 'neath the heel

Of Hannibal,— and drenched our thirsting loam

With blood the richest in the veins of Rome? —

We are too old! The pigmy despots pass

Finding our beauty sterile; — yea, the glass

Of Time is emptied of its mightiest grains

And no strong hand to turn it back remains.

Therefore, your pity! — newly gathering year —

Ask you no springtime, no more harvest here! — ”

But hush, there breathes from where the islands  
lie

Melodious remonstrance in a sigh  
Across the water,—“ O beloved shore,  
Art thou so soon forgetful how we bore  
Together here the pulse of ancient Mays—  
When I, poor brother Francis, trod thy ways  
From dear Assisi, whilst the song of birds  
Scourged us with rapture and the southwind’s  
words

Marshalled the brotherhoods of clouds and  
flow’rs

In white processions through the sunlit hours?  
Hast thou forgotten these, sweet Umbrian  
shore—

And all our Perfect Joys? Are they no  
more? ”—

Then silence falls and o'er the hills afar  
Drift incense flakes of blossoms such as are  
At Whitsuntide beneath the evening star.

## THE HILL PEOPLE

OVER the shoulders of hills where the great clouds huddle around us,  
With eyes half averted we gaze out afar on the plain  
Where trudges the infinite herd — the low-hung heads that confound us —  
Under the rose-dust haze of the cañon's limitless chain.

Herd unreturning that swarms, numberless, slumberless, over wastes in the blaze of whose noon not a shadow nor respite arrives ;  
Age upon age do they trudge, yet never can vision discover End to the flock and its range — nor the face of the herdsman that drives.

Far in the cloud-laden hills we are lulled to their treading of thunder,  
As under the zenith ablaze they pass without signal or word — Stay! — on our throats there's a hand! — The Rancher! — His brow, O the wonder! — He drives adown through the gorge where his white steed rounds up the herd!

## THE HEART OF THE ROSE

WHAT are the joys of the rose? —  
The silence of night at the shrine  
Where it lies in a rapture divine ;  
The exquisite moment it knows  
On the breast of a bride ; its last sighs  
On the lips of a poet who dies ;—  
These are the joys of the rose.

What are the griefs of the rose?  
To lie in the clasp of the dead  
While the tears of a mother are shed ;  
To symbol a passion that goes,  
To fade on bosom unkind ;  
To perish unplucked on the wind ;—  
These are the griefs of the rose.

## DAYBREAK

WHILE low before the throne of pearl there  
bend

Acclaiming seraphs in majestic throng,  
And whirlwinds of *Laudates* without end  
Shake God's far-shining citadels with song;

Against the half-veiled lattice of the morn  
A truant cherub peeps across the dark  
And 'neath the straggling clouds and stars out-  
worn,  
Strains his pink ear to list the rising lark.

# CHARLES WARREN STODDARD

THE POET OF THE SOUTH SEAS

1843-1909

THINE exile ended,— O belovéd seer,—  
Thou turnest homeward to thine isles of  
light,  
Thy reefs of silver, and palmetto height!  
Yea, down thy vales sonorous thou wouldst hear  
Again the cataracts that white and clear  
Called from young days — oh, with what lov-  
ing might!—  
That from our arms and this embattled night  
Thou break'st away and leav'st us weeping here.  
  
Vain the laudation!— What are crowns and  
praise  
To thee whom Youth anointed on the eyes?  
We have but known the lesser heart of thee  
Whose spirit bloomed in lilies down the ways  
Of Padua; whose voice perpetual sighs  
On Molokai in tides of melody.

## LITTLE PATHWAYS

NOT by the highways and the streets, dear friend,  
Where kings and merchants and their minions wend,  
But by the little pathways let us go  
Lone ways that only humble footsteps know.  
No dawdling feet upon the world's parade  
Made yonder tracks that wind across the glade  
Where slyly from the flooded haunts of men  
Life trickles back into the wilds again.  
See, here anon and there the ways divide  
Some to the brook and some to the pasture side,  
Glancing sweet invitation as they turn  
To draw us with them through the beds of fern.  
For each though lowly in its crude design  
Leads somewhere — *somewhere*, mystery benign ;  
And where the trail seems beaten hard and brown  
Perchance the woodsmen turn from out the town ;  
And where yon slender course but seems to stray  
Some meadow lies or else the secret way  
A timid lover hastens to his sweet.  
Ah, look, another half o'er-grown we meet,  
But still memorial of old travellers.  
'Twas death, perchance, or fault, alas, of hers.  
If now the grass has crept its footprints o'er ;  
Perchance it led to home — a home no more.

'Tis ours, old friend, to treasure signs like these  
Wherein are written rarer histories  
Than chronicles of kings and empires tell;  
For on the scrolling of the hill and dell  
Life with a finger delicate and sure  
Sets for our eyes its heart's own signature.  
Soft to these hollow footways steal the leaves  
When autumn turns to threaten; winter heaves  
His warning breath of snowflakes earliest here;  
Each in its little pulse reports the year.  
Here when the golden dulcimers of spring  
Strike to the forest chords' awakening,  
Here are the primal leaf and grasses stirred  
In answer with *Amens* of brook and bird.  
Thus sweetly intimate with tender moods  
Our pathways greet us from the solitudes;  
Here from the past such fond reminders flow  
As bid the future its vast claims forego,  
Though by yon paths that by the thicket wind  
The scythe of Time may other harvest find,  
Though Life exult as in its proudest veins  
And Empire course,— where now are mountain  
rains.

## VIGILIA

**S**TILL let me dream of her,—  
O winds of summer tangling rose and star!  
Night, let your witcheries but minister  
New harmonies to echo her afar!

Still let me dream of her,—  
Though e'en at noon Fame's banners white be  
furled;  
Though joy and laughter cease,— the little purr  
Of cities and the frothing of the world!

Though trumpets rend my ears  
With Titan strife of passions,— though the  
hours  
Crush me like chariot wheels,— the gathering  
years  
Beat all earth's weeping on my head in  
show'rs!—

Yea, though Life fall away  
Into a shadowy haunt of things that were,—  
Though Night be heaped in chaos on the Day,—  
Still let me dream,— still let me dream of her!

## BLACK JOHN'S WAY

**T**HREE came a Merry-man down the lane  
(Heigh-ho and a linkum-laddie)  
And tapped with his bells at the ale-house pane  
Whilst under the hill stole a sail from Spain.  
(Fol-de-rol and a fol-de-raddy.)

Never came sound or a torch to light  
(Heigh-ho and a linkum-laddie)  
Black-John the Papist's house that night ;  
But the dawn heard spurs and the gallop of  
flight —  
(Fol-de-rol and a fol-de-raddy).

By Saint Cuthbert's Well Nat Tinker dreamed  
(Heigh-ho and a linkum-laddie)  
That a shaven pate 'neath the torches gleamed  
As a bride — Black-John's fair daughter —  
screamed.  
(Fol-de-rol and a fol-de-raddy.)

There's Spanish gold in the holy well,  
(Heigh-ho and a linkum-laddie)  
There's a Roundhead youth has cursed its  
spell ! —  
There's a cheek like snow at the court of Spain,  
But never a Merry-man down the lane.  
(Fol-de-rol and a fol-de-raddy.)

## WHERE DREAMS GO BY

OVER the hill there's a roadway turns  
Through the fields of barley, wheat and  
hay;  
The moonlight paves it, the noontide burns,  
The clouds trail over it all the day.

It is the road where my dreams go by  
O'er velvet thresholds to the dawns;  
It tells me where the hamlets lie,  
The silver spires, the pasture lawns.

“Put by,”—it signs me,—“your cloak of care,  
And think no more on the old worlds gone;  
Here are the Hesperides more fair,  
Here lovelier vales than Avalon!”

## WORLD RUNES

**H**OAR are the cloud-peaks when the day is  
done

In druid conclave round the mystic sun;  
Night's silver eloquence of star and moon,—  
The tides, the seasons, and the winds in tune,  
Would, were their vast significance not vain,  
Solve the enigma of our joys and pain  
With words majestical as those the trees  
Heave from their breasts unburthened by the  
breeze.

Ah, 'tis not utterance of theirs at fault!

Hath not the earth, and earths that star the  
vault,

A kindred language? This the heart of man  
Instinctive fathomed when his race began,  
Though now with soul left fallow, and grown  
cold,

No more interprets he those voices old.

Not so when down Cumæa's mountain ways  
The leaves were scattered for the Sybil's gaze;  
Not when the wizards on the isles of old  
Bartered the fair winds for the Vikings' gold.  
Deem you that secret perished? Nay, though  
worn

With bearing fruitless message, night and morn  
Old Earth, as one in mortal travail, cries  
For hearts to take her wisdom ere it dies.

Thus when by night beneath some harvest moon  
Her vales seem gathered in ecstatic swoon  
Of mystery and sadness ; when the wind  
Trumpets the morning ; or the heavens are  
signed

For battle,— fain again would she essay  
The ancient word that holds our souls at bay ;  
Her lips eternal, anguished, seem to part —  
Ah, is it only silence fills our heart ?

## GETTYSBURG

WHO sleep at Gettysburg sleep well ;  
A peace beyond the dreams of glory  
Laps them in sunshine where they fell.  
The very winds that croon them tell  
    Of hatreds like a drowsy story ;  
Blue look the skies on where they dwell.

Ah, blanched with peace are Blue and Gray  
    Who come to tread these uplands — slowly  
Lest in the merest piece of clay  
That holds a flower or lines the way,  
    Some vestige of a heart-pulse holy —  
Some comrade's heart — be stirred to-day.

But of that myriad host, ah, where  
    Are they — the young, the loved, th' un-  
daunted,  
The warring brothers marshalled there,  
Defiance in their seraph air,  
    Their eyes with death's white beauty haunted,  
Their hands to do, their souls to dare?

Hush, song ; among these storied flow'rs,  
    These pallid shafts and waving grasses,  
Wake not such little plaint as ours ;  
See with what calmness nature dow'rs  
    The silence of these meadow passes  
In chastened sunlight, softened show'rs.

Not here their sole memorials —  
But where th' eternal rainbow quivers  
Athwart the rush of waterfalls ;  
By gleam of lakes and cañon walls,  
By north and southland swirl of rivers,  
Where eagle wings or bittern calls.

## DĪS PLACIDIS

I PRAY the gods to spare me  
From this dire love of mine  
Whose sorrows rend and tear me,  
Whose joys are poisoned wine!

Yea, gods, take back your pleasures,  
Take back your gifts divine,  
And from your hearts' own treasures  
Grant peace at last to mine!

## ON A NIGHTINGALE AT AMALFI

THERE'S an old, old tree of the orchard  
hangs over the cliff in the moonlight  
Where now is a nightingale come to sob, and  
sob, to the breeze;  
All the sorrows of proud, lost worlds seem voiced  
in that desolate bosom,  
With a cry to my heart that has turned from  
the young world over the seas  
To clamor alone of its griefs — boyish griefs  
that are naught to these.

O ye who sang through the ages — poets of  
Araby, Athens,  
And Rome,— were ye deadened to woe, were  
your bosoms so strong,—  
Vast hearts, that ye hearkened this voicing of  
youth and of sacrifice thwarted,  
Of loves into mockery fallen, of shrines where  
no suppliants throng,  
Of empires and cities in briars and ashes,—  
and called it a song!

## FROM AVIGNON TO TARASCON

**F**ROM Avignon to Tarascon  
Psalms have died away in laughter;  
Spire, and turret, and *donjon*  
Echo but some *rigadon*  
Careless of the Great Hereafter.  
Never more reflects the river  
Tonsured head or pluméd one,—  
Pope and monk and prince are gone,  
Troubadour and hearty-liver  
From Avignon to Tarascon.  
Yet to-day the Rhone goes singing  
Quite as though no Papal John  
With his huntsmen's clarion  
Ever set its woodlands ringing;  
Quite as though no rogue in iron  
Jousted here, nor amazon  
In severity or fun  
Proved half-deaconess, half siren,  
From Avignon to Tarascon.  
Sun and vineyard still betray man —  
*Chateau-Neuf's* red juices run —  
Brigand still is Cupidon  
To many a lass and godless layman  
From Avignon to Tarascon.  
Ah — what rosy sacrileges,

Broken vows, we've left upon  
Lips like Jeanne's or Marthe-Yvonne! —  
    Floating past the blossom hedges  
From Avignon to Tarascon!

## ON THE VERANDA

ON the veranda while the waning moon  
Flooded the vineyards and the glens of  
June,  
We gathered, singing softly in the shade  
The sighful branches of the trellis made.  
The elders listened silent as our song  
Passed from each well-loved melody along:—  
Through sweet plantation tunes, and hymns of  
war,  
And simple glees and ballads loved of yore.  
They sat apart, their thoughts upon the days  
And voices silenced — while the moon's pale rays  
Transformed the orchard to a dreamlike place  
Hung round with light and shadow as with lace.  
And when the youthful chorus wearied grew  
And to the house they pensively withdrew,  
There in the shelter of the silvered vine  
My fingers taking courage stole to thine.

## ALHAMBRA SONG

WOULDST thou be comrade to the rose,  
Yet of the thorns complain?  
Wouldst pine for rarer pearls than those  
The diver seeks where Aden flows,  
Yet fear to tempt the main?

See where upon the twilight hills  
Zuleika's lamp awakes;  
There's not a nightingale that thrills  
These vales with song so sweet as fills  
The heart that sings and breaks.

Yet should thy panting lips refuse  
In love's fond lists to vie  
With nightingale, thou else must choose  
Within yon lamp thyself to lose —  
A moth — and give no sigh.

## IN A FRIEND'S GUIDE-BOOK

A FLOWER of Spain — a yellow rose of Se-  
ville

That graced of old some gypsey's lustrous  
hair —

The spoil, I fancy, which the lucky devil  
Bore off in memory of his folly there.

A flower of Spain some gracious señorita  
Has thrown at carnival amid the ball —  
Or bashful token of some Mariquita  
With fan, mantilla, and embroidered shawl.

A flower of Spain — ah, not his last memento  
Of Moorish gardens seen by honeymoon —  
Left in his guide-book indiscreetly lent to  
Another tourist in the month of June? —

A flower of Spain — yes, Time prepares to blot  
it  
To rust and ashes, all its fragrance flown! —  
'Tis evident the rascal has forgot it —  
But I shall add some others of my own.

## LARGESSES

WHAT silver largesses are these  
That scatter from the almond trees,—  
O beggars, cease your mirth, and say  
What little bride hath passed the way?

“ ’Tis April, April,”— they replied,—  
“ The villagers have hailed as bride,  
Whose silver largess glads us more  
Than all the Autumn’s golden store.”

## ON A GATE-STONE AT GRANADA

HERE stood the little garden where  
Of old when joy was mine,  
Over her cheeks' two roses rare  
    Her eyes,— twain stars,— would shine.  
They say her beauty flaunts its flower  
    Within the courts of kings afar;—  
But see how thorns enmesh the bower,  
    And never comes a star!

TO  
**ED. AND EMMA**



## THE CHANOINESSE

WITH vinaigrette, and purple robe, and  
fan,

Madame Mathilde would take the morning  
air;

Adown the formal paths her old sedan  
Goes gravely moving round the bright par-  
terre,

By gravelled walk and grotto, with their gleam  
Of marble nymph and satyr, row on row ;  
By storied oak, cascade, and glen, that seem  
The shepherd haunts of Boucher and Wat-  
teau.

Her faithful Jacques and Joseph, as of yore,  
Go drowsing with her chair ; they too can see  
The vision of old days — alas, no more —  
That steals her from her jewelled rosary.

'Tis fair Versailles she sees,— the masques, the  
plays,  
Pavanes and minuets ; she hears — beguiled —  
The horns of St.-Germain's far hunting-days  
When beauty crowned her, when Great Louis  
smiled.

And hark, another horn! Before her eyes  
There comes her lover scarcely more than boy;  
She sees him pass in proud and martial guise;  
Her dry eyes melt,— she weeps o'er Fontenoy.

Bright days of conquest,— bitter memories  
That break her spirit! — till the old command  
Lights in her eyes, as down the path she sees  
Her dear *curé* approaching hat in hand.

## THE UHLAN

**Y**OUNG Hugo's an Uhlan,  
An Uhlan so fine;  
His horse is the Kaiser's,  
But Hugo is mine.

To the cry of the clarion rides he away;  
'Tis with softest of whispers I make him obey.

Though sunlight flash bravely from sabre and  
lance,  
I feel that he trembles in meeting my glance.

But fearless in battle my Hugo can be;  
As fierce as the foeman, as tender to me.

Ay, flutter light pennon away to the strife;  
On my tiniest finger I balance his life.

*For Hugo's an Uhlan,  
An Uhlan so fine;  
His horse is the Kaiser's,  
But Hugo is mine.*

## PENITENTS

*WHITE fingers tapping on the pane  
Through all the ghostly day,—  
White faces down the orchard lane  
Where gusts and snowdrifts play,—  
My heart would hear the messages  
Your lips are fain to say!*

We are the myriads whom men  
Have loved from olden time ;  
The spectre train of Magdalen  
Through every age and clime,  
The winds of fate are tossing us  
Before their scorn sublime.

By times upon the lonely wastes  
Where trail the city lights,  
We taunt the traveller as he hastens  
Across the troubled nights ;  
Or 'neath the moon we nestle down  
On some cathedral's heights.

The mountains know our coming well  
Far pilgrimage to make ;  
The salt seas scourge us with their swell ;  
The winds our wild prayers take ;  
The sunlight and the starlight strive  
Our fevered hearts to slake.

Till when upon our calméd souls  
The peace of mountains creeps,  
Our trembling sisterhood unrolls  
Into the valley deeps,  
And clusters 'mong the thatch and vines  
Where some pure maiden sleeps.

*White pilgrims down the orchard lane,—*

*See, night comes on apace;*

*And one far casement lights the plain*

*From my love's dwelling-place.*

*Oh, grant her there, when comes the moon,*

*Your silvery embrace.*

## IN MEMORY'S GARDEN

**T**HREE is a garden in the twilight lands  
Of Memory, where troops of butterflies  
Flutter adown the cypress paths, and bands  
Of flowers mysterious droop their drowsy eyes.

There through the silken hush come footfalls  
faint  
And hurried through the vague parterres ; and  
sighs,  
Whispering of rapture or of sweet complaint  
Like ceaseless parle of bees and butterflies.

And by one lonely pathway steal I soon  
To find the flowerings of the old delight  
Our hearts together knew — when lo, the moon  
Turns all the cypress alleys into white.

## SONGS

WOULD God, some little song might come  
To hearts of men, as in the spring  
The birds confide to branches numb  
At April's earliest blossoming !  
Till lips, like stone no longer dumb,  
With life's melodious floods might ring —  
Would God, the song might come ! —

But gone is boyhood from the heart ;  
For all the bright dream-army fades —  
The knights, the troubadours depart —  
The shepherd swains, the lily maid.  
Ah, minstrel,— where thine oldtime art  
To flood with tender serenades  
The windows of the heart !

Hark ! through earth's cities runs a cry  
Proclaiming new appointed days  
Of beauty — Hark ! — “ Old hates shall die  
And craft shall yield the soul's due praise,  
The High Fates put their terrors by —  
And man walk chainless on Life's way ! ”  
Song ! Song, — take up that cry !

## STAR-TRYSTS

THE pool of the lilies yearns and sighs  
All night long for its starry skies ;  
The skies look down through the lily floats  
And pine all day for their ivory throats.

Winds of the morning clarion far  
Their taunt at the heels of each laggard star ;  
There is flit of wings where the boughs hang  
over,—  
Arrows of sunlight breath of clover.

But ah ! when the twilight beetle goes  
With droning whir o'er the sleepy rose,  
There comes one perfect hour of peace  
When skies, and waters, find surcease ;  
When the lotes grow fond to the day's embrace  
And the stars bend down o'er the pool's wan  
face ;—  
One perfect hour ere night comes on,  
And day from his lily loves is gone ;—  
One perfect hour, ere the moon recalls  
The loitering stars to her silver halls.

## IN THE TWILIGHT OF LOVE

If years ago you told me, dear,  
That on a day our dreams would fade  
To these half-hearted fancies drear,  
I should have grieved and felt dismayed.

But yet so softly has the rain  
Of dead years' ashes settled on  
Each passion-jewel that the pain  
Is smothered ere all light has gone.

Ah, be it thus with love's decease! —  
Its day is done; its shrine, too high  
To brave Time's destined tragedies;  
Let us steal down ere night comes by.

## THE VOICE

OVER the fields and the sea  
To where on the hill I was sleeping  
There whispered a Voice unto me,—  
“ Arise! ” and I caught the sun creeping  
In under the door of the room,  
And my eyes still sore from old weeping  
Looked up, and saw 'twas a tomb.

Then I remembered it all ;—  
The hush of loved voices ; the token  
Of roses ; the tears you let fall ;  
The sobs half smothered and broken.  
Ah, long did it seem since my breast,  
With the farewells only half spoken,  
Had heaved its last sigh into rest.

In dust fell the wreath from my head  
As I broke through the cobwebs that bound  
me.  
Still, still the Voice Beautiful said,—  
“ Arise! ” and I felt all around me,  
Till on the mildewy floor  
Standing atremble I found me,  
And softly I opened the door.

Oh, the vast surge of the light,  
And the warmth, and earth-gladness ! The  
singing  
Of birds through the blossom-drifts white,  
And the far bells' silvery ringing !  
All my strange robe, as I stood  
In the sunlight, grew pure ; the lark winging  
Shook music o'er pasture and wood !

Out on the glittering lands  
A great white army went slowly  
With branches of palm in their hands  
Mid the silence seraphic and holy ;  
Went over smooth fields near the sea  
Whence that Voice came murmuring lowly,—  
“ Arise and come unto me ! ”

Rapturous thrill of those words !  
As I felt all their meaning awaken,  
My heart leaped up with the bird's,—  
All thoughts of old sorrows forsaken !  
Out o'er the fields and the sea  
I stole till the throng was o'ertaken —  
And sighed, “ Unto Thee ! Unto Thee ! ”

## THE HAIL

**T**HREE is an army marching  
Across the straining roof ;  
And roused from sleep I hear the sweep  
Of sabre, drum, and hoof.

And every chattering window  
Is trembling as in fear  
While on the blast the horde goes past  
And leaves the storm-path clear.

## DREAM ELOQUENCE

**I**N dreams of thee I feel the eloquence  
That floods the souls of poets half divine ;  
Earth blooms anew ; and music takes a sense  
Of glorious pain ; and thought gives warmth  
like wine.

Oh, to give this to language ! To distil  
With wizardry this heavenly vapor fleet !  
And in a word, a gem, a flower, at will,  
Cast all my trembling passion at your feet !

## A SIGH FROM ALHAMBRA

**T**HY beauty's orchard in decay!—  
Thy soul an exile on the wind!—  
Thy cheek's fond jewel in the clay  
With Death's imperial signet signed!—

Lo, by the pathway where they bore  
Thy form unto its cypress urn,  
The rose droops earthward more, and more,  
**A**s though to hearken thy return!

## IN THE HOUSE OF AUGUSTUS

C OM'ST thou to greet me at the Forum gate  
Where dwelt Octavian, earliest star of  
night,—

Leaving thy little vales and pools of light,  
Thy paths of home whereon I saw thee late?  
Sweet is thine oldtime message here, where fate  
O'erwhelmed man's haughtiest eminence with  
blight,—

To tell this crumbling beauty of a night  
Which hath survived all despots and all state.

Here 'mid this wrack of broken arch and  
shrine,—

Rienzi's haunt,— Farnese's hills of pine,—  
Where 'neath Time's very brow, the Goths  
our sires

Entombed slave-empire,— here, thy purer rays  
Bespeak, O childhood's star!— Christ's prom-  
ised days,

The lamps of peace, the hearths' untainted  
fires.



**TO**  
**MARIE-LOUISE**  
**AND**  
**ARCHER VANCE PANCOAST**



## IN THE CLOISTER OF SAN JUAN

Moonlight haunts the little garden  
Of the cloister of San-Juan  
Where the Novice Serafita —  
    She so fair to look upon —  
Steals adown the fragrant passes  
    Near the fountains murmuring low  
While the misty harbor slumbers  
    And the stars and lamplights glow.  
In that garden on the hillside  
    There are roses to enslave  
Poets' hearts with dreams of beauty  
    To the threshold of the grave;  
Shrines of Virgins are reflected  
    In the founts that never cease  
And the night wind in the trellis  
    Whispers orisons for peace.  
Gently there the youthful novice  
    In her cloister robe of white  
Bends to whisper to the roses  
    Dripping with the dews of night; —  
“Are you weeping, little sisters?  
    Is there sorrow in your breast  
At this hour so calm and saintly  
    When the weary-hearted rest?”  
And they answer in the moonlight  
    For their souls were all her own  
Since they blossomed in her kisses

And had felt her hand alone:—  
“ We are weeping, Serafita,  
O'er the sorrows of the rose.”—  
—“ Nay, belovéd,”—she makes answer,—  
“ Are your blossoms not of those  
That alone upon the altar  
Through the silent night repose,—  
All your hearts in love consuming  
At the threshold of your Lord? ”  
But they whisper, softly weeping,  
—“ Few there be for such award.”—  
—“ Nay,” she pleads,—“ if earth so claim you,  
Be the tokens that enshrine  
Love in throthéd maidens' bosoms  
In avowal half divine.”  
Then they answer, “ Serafita,  
Nor for them our petals weep,  
Who upon the day they blossom  
At the feet of Jesu sleep;  
Nor for them, our gentle sisters  
Who on maiden hearts find grace  
There to breathe out all their being  
In love's sacrificial place;  
But our tears are falling, falling,  
For the roses that must lie  
All the perfect night on bosoms  
Whence they hearken base reply,—  
Lain on hearts grown deaf and heedless  
To the plea that roses make,—

Roses but decoys to kisses  
That are poisoned like the snake.  
These have filled our hearts with sorrow,  
Most of all, the dumb despair  
Of the rose upon a bosom  
Set for love that is not there.”  
Then — so runs the simple legend —  
There came fear within the eyes  
Of the Novice Serafita  
As she listened to their sighs,  
Bent and wept upon their petals —  
And with prayer her lips upon —  
Hastened through the silver moonlight  
In the cloister of San Juan.

## THE LEVANTINE

FROM off her back she swings the satchels  
down

And spreads her wares. Her hands tattooed  
proclaim

In arabesque her tribe and creed and name,—  
The swarthy peddler through our inland town.  
With sharp eyes watching for a smile or frown,  
Across the worlds of time and space she came,  
Relaxing never from her ancient aim,—  
Here where the blue-eyed urchins pluck her  
gown.

What of her youth and gladness? — on what  
shore  
Levantine,— on what height of Lebanon,  
Rove the lithe kinsmen of her Biblical race?  
Those eyes, perchance, Stamboul hath doted-on,  
Or Smyrna's alleys praised — ere, to our door  
She trudged the farmlands with her beads  
and lace.

## AFTERGLOW

OVER the orchard one great star;  
The yellow moon;— and the harvest  
done;  
And the cheek of the river crimsoned far  
From the kiss of the vanished sun.

## THE HOURS

**A** WAKE,— the misty waters hear  
Across the hills the chanticleer  
Proclaim his ancient warning!  
The cloud-heaped harbors of the east  
Unfurl as for a bannered feast  
The crimson sails of morning.

Twelve galleons of mauve and red  
And liquid gold and at their head  
The day-star gleaming o'er them,  
From out their offing-bar advance  
With breasting sheets and crystal dance  
Of rainbow sprays before them.

And lo! — the opal'd waters raise  
The waves' white brows to swell their praise  
Along the paths they follow;  
While all the hills and strands are stirred  
With low of kine and song of bird,  
With flight of cloud and swallow.

Twelve argosies ye be that go  
With freights of joys, and pains, and woe,  
By ways where none may linger;  
The day-star fades upon your mast,  
Your sails of ruby meet at last  
The noontide's jealous finger.

The breath that drives you o'er the skies  
Knows never lapse, nor ever dies ;  
    Your pilot's eye ne'er closes ;  
From morning star to evening star  
Fate speeds you on his paths afar  
    From dawn's to sunset's roses.

Then as through Night's black gulfs you swing,  
    O what a motley harvesting  
        Your weary hulks go bearing ! —  
What wharfage waits their strange discharge —  
Or in the void doth every barge  
    Sink in one swirl despairing ?

Upon the hills we crouch all night  
And ply our God with question trite,  
    Where sail those fleets of morning ?  
Till swift again across the world  
New silver halliards are unfurled  
    And chanticleer is warning.

## RUSSIAN SPRINGSONG AFTER MINAIEV

SHE softly droops her maiden eyes  
Behind the casement ledge at home,  
And ever and anon she sighs,—  
“ Ah, if the spring would only come ! ”

Another on his bed of pain  
With hope of health and sunshine near,  
Warms his faint heart with like refrain,—  
“ Ah, if the spring were only here ! ”

And soon the spring with flower and dove  
Brings each a portion on its breath : —  
For her, sweet blossomings and love ;  
For him, sweet blossomings and death.

## ON THE PIAZZA DI SPAGNA, ROME

SUNLIGHT and starlight find them still the same,  
Still crowd the strange years by ; each carven name  
Grows dimmer on the marble balustrade  
That winds unto the Pincian with its shade  
Of cypress and of ilex, file on file,  
Beyond the cross-crowned needle from the Nile.  
Ne'er come the winds and rains as strangers here  
Where Keats' great soul went forth ; the lanterns peer  
By twilights opaline as those he knew ;  
The low-voiced fountain sobs its midnights through.

New popes, new princes, hail with old array  
The saints and triumphs granted for to-day ;  
New flowers are bartered-for beneath the sun ;  
New dreamers come to sigh o'er days undone.  
Proud Rome,— they took the garlands of your tombs  
To drape their ploughshares, to inspire their looms ;  
They lit their furnace at your altar fires ;  
And scoured the seas and sped their glistening tires  
Through worlds you knew not ; yet unsatisfied

They come — Gaul, Teuton, Anglian, in their  
pride —

To wrest the fuller message from your glooms,  
The word of life,— their ear against your  
tombs.

## MATINS

WHEN in your heart the song seems ended  
And life and laughter no more keep tune  
With the lilt of the waters and day seems blended  
With shadows that stray from some ghostly  
moon,—  
Faint heart, remember the month of June.

Then the southwind whispers the trees, “O  
brothers,  
Awake and array ye for the feast!”  
And the lambkins bleat, “It is dawn, dear  
mothers!”  
And the tulips hailing the sun as priest  
Lift up their chalices to the east.

Yea, and each leaf like a cymbal beating  
Proclaims its pæan by hill and glen,  
*Laudate Dominum* repeating.—  
And you, faint heart, what sing you then  
As the brooks and the birds respond Amen?

## GROVER CLEVELAND

No surge fanatical, no tide of greed  
Raised him to grasp our destinies supreme;  
Nor battering mob, nor plutocrat's foul  
scheme  
Held back his hand from its appointed deed  
Of righteousness; nor doth chicane succeed  
To smirch his laurels — though no foolish  
gleam  
Theatric plays around his brows that seem  
Set like Gibraltar so the world may heed.

Lo, vistaed down the morning peaks of Time,  
Not flushed with youth nor with th' exultant  
crest  
Of pioneer or combatant, he stands!  
Exemplar to our manhood in its prime —  
Of all true citizens acclaim as best,  
The clean, ripe mind, the lawful heart and  
hands.

## WITH THE SHEPHERDS ON THE HILLS

BESIDE its weary mother the lamb began  
to bleat:—

“Mother, mother, hearken to the voices strange  
and sweet!”

(The old ewe slumbered deeply; the winds and  
clouds were fleet.)

“O mother look and tell me what forms are  
these in flight

Across the hills and valleys — what floating  
eyes of light?”

“Hush, you are dreaming,— the mists are  
thick to-night.”)

“But mother, mother, listen,— they are whis-  
pering again

That Christ, a Lord and Savior, is born this  
night to men

In David’s holy city adown our pasture glen —

“And see,— like drifting fleeces through the  
midnight air they wing —”

“(Wake me not, little one, mine eyes see not  
a thing.”)

“Oh hearken, hearken, mother,— a *Gloria* they  
sing!

“ And see, the skies are clearing, a star is gleaming down  
Awake and follow, mother, for amid the shadows brown  
The shepherds bear me with them on the path to Bethlehem Town.”

## NO SPRING TILL NOW

**N**O spring till now,— though in its hushing voices

The garden warned me of the year's decline;  
“Not here,” they said, “the springtime of thy choice is;”

And in the falling star I read the sign.

The long night through I followed at its warning,

And now — the mocking fires and pitfalls passed —

Footsore and faint I wait the soul's white morning

Upon the threshold of the spring at last.

No spring till now! — O heart, stay yet thy gladness,

Ere yet thou leav'st the crags and marshes drear

Where thou hast won thy way in toil and sadness,

One last farewell — turn thou and bless them here.

Yea, Hope supernal o'er my brow uncloses  
The golden vials of a perfect day;  
And see, my gaping wounds all turned to  
roses,—  
My soul, a lark that wings upon its way!

## A GARDEN PRAYER

THAT we were earthlings and on earth must  
live  
Thou knewest, Allah, and did'st grant us  
bread;  
Yea,— and remembering of our souls — did'st  
give  
Us food of flowers; — Thy name be hal-  
lowed!



TO  
JOHN J. DONLAN  
FRIEND AND REVEREND



## THE NOEL OF ST. ELOI

**T**HEN you have seen the Wise-Kings  
pass,—

*My children, answer me;  
Quick, sit you down and rest, alas,  
How tired your feet must be!*

O mother, we did climb the hill,  
Yet it was all in vain;  
For though we ran their banners still  
Lay out beyond the plain;  
Their steeds went galloping afar  
Beneath the wintry evening star  
With golden crest and rein.

*Could you not see their holy eyes,  
The sacred gifts they bore?  
Their magic wands of wondrous size,  
Their books of hidden lore?*

We hurried down the orchard-side  
Though darkness had begun;  
Beyond the woods we saw them ride  
On clouds across the sun;  
And then they vanished in the west  
Just where the sun sinks down to rest  
And stars came, one by one.

*Alas! then you did miss them so? —  
I saw them pass the hill  
And straightway to the chapel go,—  
We there shall find them still.*

And shall we see their faces there,—  
Each King with robes and crown?  
Quick, mother dear, the meal prepare  
And let us hasten down;  
For hark, the parish bells we hear  
Ring down the valley sweet and clear  
To welcome them to town!

## NIGHT IN THE SUBURBS

PEACE after fevered hours;  
No more  
The clatter of streets and harbor roar;  
Only some wind-swept tree  
Recalls the jostle and anxiety,  
Only some drowsy hill, the city's surging towers.  
Night, be thou mindful of thy sacred bond!  
Come not as when thy reign  
Shook fen and hill beyond  
Man's outposts with the roaring  
Of beasts in rage and pain:  
But turn thine eyes, imploring  
The boon of sleep  
Upon these garden eaves, and keep  
Thy faithful tryst and pure,  
Here where calm mothers rest  
Enriched with loving turmoils of the nest;  
Here where man's dreams endure,  
And stalwart arms in sleep  
Reach toward the heights of steel and granite  
strewn  
In proud up-tumble,  
Where bridges swing to heaven above the rumble  
Of star-fed bees  
That float amid the wonder of the moon  
On merchant embassies.  
Dreams glorious such as these

The sculptor knows upon his work-shop bed  
Beneath the marble where he would fulfill  
Some final loveliness — which still  
Dawn sees unfinished.

## RAVELLO

LORDS of Ravello — men of craft and  
might

Whose bones are dust in scattered tombs to-  
night

Along Amalfi's splendor-haunted coast—

Warriors, bishops, merchants — turbulent hosts  
So stiff and stark on many a carven shrine

At Scala and Atrani; Angevine,

Lombard and Norman, ye who sound no more

For war or revel round Salerno's shore,—

Come ye not ghostly back at hours like these

To high Ravello, whose proud mysteries  
Of crag and valley ye can solve alone? —

Castles and ports deserted — towers o'erthrown  
Where once ye held you strong 'gainst storm

and foe—

Nameless — agape to all the winds that blow? —

From far below, the fisher-town appear,

Chants as ye fashioned in the ages when

With Sicily ye crushed the Saracen.

And ere the plaints are done, some ancient bell

Among the valley domes awakes to tell

Once more the story of the fragrant years: —

How erst by that steep footway, where one  
hears

Now but the fountain's drip, there rose the  
clash

Of battle-axe, and falchion, and the flash  
Of Pisan steel against the Norman shields,  
As flamed the bolted gates, the ravaged fields:—  
How once rang battle-cries from town to town  
Round holy Trophimena's bones dragged down  
From out Minori's shrine by pirate bands  
That sought the relics for their unblest lands.  
Nay, 'tis no moon that silvers all your shore,  
Lords of Ravello, where your feasts are o'er,  
But gleam of jewelled goblets that ye cast  
Upon the deeps as cup on cup was passed.  
For here ye kissed, and poniarded, and played;  
Troths plighted; yea, and sleeping friends betrayed! —

Fair were the shrines ye reared, ere summoned  
hence —

D'Afflitto,— Rufolo,— in penitence!  
Fallen — fallen Amalfi! Gone her Doges' days  
Of pageantry! None but the dreamer stays  
To trace,— Ravello,— in thy roofless holds  
The names, the glories, that the moss enfolds.  
Yet no such breath of lemon groves,— no skies  
Of purple,— fold your haughty kin that lies  
Afar in Naples, where the mass-bells swing  
And choristers' and peddlars' outeries ring  
Through the alley mazes. For their full repose  
Not even avails the sanctuary close —  
Where, scorn of their own pauper offspring's  
feet,

They frown in stone,— while bells and censers  
greet  
God's very Self called earthward o'er and o'er,  
And many crouch in fear and few adore.

## SEVILLANA

**S**UN in the darkening west,  
Wouldst thou vie with the damask flow'r  
In her raven hair at rest?  
*Pale moon of the twilight hour,—  
Like mine hath thy cheek confest  
Dolores' lovely pow'r.—”*

Hush, music — her whisper is heard  
At the lattice; I bend o'er her hand  
Which flutters in mine like a bird.  
As the wave to the shell on the strand,  
My soul is outpoured in a word  
That her ear is not fain to withstand.

*Up from the alley-way steals  
The cobbler's rap-a-tap song:—  
“ Ha, ha! for the lover who feels  
Both his heart and shoe-leather so strong  
That they'll never wear down at the heels —  
Ha, ha! but love's journeys are long! ”*

On streams the night; there is breath  
Of the tangerines over the walls.  
“ Forever — thine only,” she saith,  
As soft from the belfry there falls  
The stroke of The Souls — sighing, “ Death —  
Death — and the loves it recalls! ”

Peace to you, souls of the past —  
Lovers whose yearnings are o'er! —  
Yea, bid the loveless sleep fast,  
White moon, with thy seal to their door! —  
But O my Dolores! — at last  
Thy lips — upon mine — evermore! —

## TO FRANCIS THOMSON

AS lightning o'er some village feast of  
lamps,  
Thy spirit still flashed across these little  
times  
Of babbling sages and ear-cozening rhymes.  
The storm comes on! Lo, what new pallor  
stamps  
The brows that with thee held the high-pitched  
camps  
Of beauty 'gainst the horde from out the  
slimes  
Of Greed and Hate, who clutch the heaven-set  
chimes  
To drag them jangling down the fens and  
damps!

For thou art gone—thy “stammer of the  
skies”  
Resolved to ultimate song! The white gleam  
lies  
Along the dismal streets thy feet have passed,  
And shame burns hot on cheeks thou erst  
found cold.  
Thy giant soul hath Pindar claimed at last;  
Thee to his breast Assisi's son doth fold.

THE CATHEDRAL, BURGOS, 1905

HIGH in their groves of stone the ancient  
    bells intone.)

Hosannas fling we on the midnight air!

For tongues of silver, lips of brass are ours,  
And far to sing their gladness and their care  
Men hung us here amid these carven bow'rs,—  
*In excelsis Gloria!*

(Then pulse with joyous tone the Spires in uni-  
    son.)

We that are earth's last flowering up to God

Lift to the stars the gladness of the land!

(The Gargoyles mouth and leer from every  
    ledge and pier.)

We for earth's outcasts witness; in the sod

Both worm and flower are equal in His  
    hand,—

*In excelsis Gloria!*

(Hark, the Foundation-Stone heaves forth its  
    joy alone.)

Brother to that bare stone of Bethlehem

Whereon His earliest pillow was,— am I!—

Let the glad chimes remember that for them

My shoulders prop their eyries in the sky —

*In excelsis Gloria!*

(Then from the Organs pour the canticles of  
yore.)

To God in utmost heaven let proud acclaim  
Of Glory, Love, and Sovereignty resound! —  
O that the winds which over Bethlehem came  
Were in our throats to make His praise  
abound —  
*In excelsis Gloria!*

(And as their chants arise the Baptistry sighs.)  
O Bethlehem in me each day renewed! —

(The Crypt where deep are stored monarch, and  
saint, and lord.)

Hosanna from the Manger of the Dead!  
(The Altar-Tapers fair burn out their souls in  
prayer.)

There was a star upon that solitude  
Wherfrom was Perfect Light on Juda  
shed,—

*In excelsis Gloria!*

(Then all the Townsfolk cry in one clear song  
on high.)

Flesh of our flesh — unto the earth He came;  
Soul of His soul — to win us home again!  
Our souls and bodies worshipping proclaim  
The Christ in us reborn this night to men —

*In excelsis Gloria!*

*Et in terra Pax!*

## THE TARDY SPRING

UNTIL the spring — until the breath of  
May,  
She meekly craved her Lord that she might stay.

“ Yea, till the spring,”— He whispered her  
apart,—  
“ Until the May, thou gentle, trusting heart.”

But bleak and tardy crept the days along;  
There came no bloom for her, no flit of song,—

And at the last she sighed,— “ The flowers de-  
lay —  
Perchance they wait to meet me on my way —”

She died — at morn we threw her windows  
wide —  
Anemones filled all the garden side.

## THE POOL OF THE HAZELS

WHERE bend the hazels' ancient boughs  
above,

I linger by the mountain pool and dream;  
The branches whisper names and runes I love,

The waters eye me with reproachful gleam.  
For here the footsteps of old kings have been,

And in the depths their glittering baubles lie;  
Their crowns, their torques, their silver wands,  
are seen,

With drowsy salmon softly brushing by.

And as I muse the hazel nuts drop down

Below the shadowed surface with a gasp;  
But when my arm would seize a sword or  
crown,—

Ah, see, the ripples hide it from my grasp.  
And once again the nightwind at my ears

Is whispering, “Dreamer, vain is all your  
toil!

Leave if you will your little meed of tears,  
But from the Pool of Sorrows take no spoil.”

NOEL OF STE. ANNE DE CHICOUTIMI,  
QUEBEC

“ ‘**F**RRIEND Jeanne-Marie, ’tis the holy  
night,

*Thy cloak put on, thy lantern light.*”

(Hark to the joyous carillon!)

“ Therese, no childless wife can say

*Fit prayers to-night; go thou and pray.*”

(The bells ring Noel, Noel.)

“ *Nay, Jeanne-Marie, at the chapel door*

*Thou canst kneel till the mass is o’er,*

(Hark to the solemn carillon!)

*While I go up to the Crib and make*

*Bon-Jesu homage for thy sake.*”

(The bells ring Noel, Noel.)

Frosty stars from the sky look down;

Lanterns pass to the hillside town;

(Hark to the holy carillon!)

And there they see ’mid the lights and awe

The waxen Infant on the straw.

(The bells ring Noel, Noel.)

“ *Rise up, rise up, good Jeanne-Marie.*

*The mass is over; come with me.*”

(Hark to the noisy carillon!)

“ Therese, Therese,— old neighbor dear,—

I must have slept,— He — He came here.”

(The bells ring Noel, Noel.)

“ *Hush, Jeanne-Marie, and come away;*

*The church is cold,— 'twill soon be day."*

(Hark to the dying carillon!)

"Yes, in my sleep, Therese, I saw  
The Infant-Jesu leave the straw,

(The bells ring Noel, Noel.)

And come and lay His forehead blest  
Here, Therese, on my childless breast,

(Hark to the merry carillon!)

And then I heard the children sing  
The glad *Adeste* to their King."

(The bells ring Noel, Noel.)

"*Jeanne-Marie, another year*  
*Thyself mayst to the Crib draw near.*"

(Hark to the echoing carillon!)

"Pray God, Therese, that I may there  
Among the mothers make my prayer."

(The bells ring Noel, Noel.)

## A PANEL AFTER TURNER

THE peacock on the balustrade  
Of ambered marble sleeps away;  
His feathered train's begemmed array  
Sweeping the poppies in cascade.

The fountain Triton flings about  
His spray amid the tawny sun  
Where shines a lithe chameleon  
Like tinsel, basking noontide out.

While weary of the perfumed air  
The butterfly, a white Pierrot —  
Droops o'er the jasmine pulsing slow  
His petaled wings of opal rare.

They dream — Afar, see, tumbling high,  
The storm's gray chaos! Its decrees  
The enpurpled plumage of the trees  
Proclaims, "Faint rose, the rain is nigh."

## TO AN ENGLISH SETTER

CORINTHIAN of dogs, how word the grace  
That guides your movements? How portray  
your face,—  
The meditation of your eyes, your pose  
Of royal head? Such were great Landseer's  
joys  
Who in your woodland splendor lithe and frank  
Found your race Greek from chest to slender  
flank  
And gave you poetry for heritage.  
Would that in his — your high breed's classic  
age —  
He could have seen and caught the charm again  
Of sunlight rippling through your silken mane  
Of white and gold! Would he could see you  
now  
Cleaving the goldenrod like Dian's plough  
And quick with autumn's half barbaric mood  
Scattering the sumac leaves in showers of blood!  
Or as, in carved Olympiad runners' pose,  
With ears peaked high you watch the cloud of  
crows  
Flock with sarcastic echoes o'er the plain,  
Knowing pursuit and challenge are in vain.

## HOW LIKE THE ROSE

HOW like the rose to bloom a day  
And leave but memory behind  
Of where among the thorns she twined,  
Frail visitant who might not stay!  
What godhead grants the thorns delay  
—To riot in their native clay  
While beauty passes on the wind,  
How like the rose!

Ah. whither must she thus away  
Whose embassy hath been so kind  
That Love no other voice would find  
Than hers to warn our hearts and say,  
How like the rose!

W 19







